

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: CE002343 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1157993

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025
FOR
SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK**

J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Smethwick Church Action Network is a grassroots organisation that seeks to support our neighbours in times of crisis and walk with them to a place of hope and self-sufficiency. Smethwick CAN is an asset-based community organisation, grown from the premise that we can achieve much more together than we ever could in isolation. We have an established foodbank, community pantry, signposting, and volunteering services, as well as supporting the churches in the network to develop their own social action projects and initiatives.

How we go about our work is as important for us as the work itself. Therefore, all our endeavours are underpinned by an ethos that we are always stronger working together.

Smethwick Church Action Network has a set of **12 Core Values** that underpin how we work:

* **Collaborative and Partnering** We work together as a group of churches, partnering with local initiative and resources to signpost our neighbours to additional support within the community.

* **Inclusive and Accepting** Anyone is welcome to come and serve or be served regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

* **Intentional and Responsive** To love our neighbours and community well, we need to be watchful of the needs and intentional about how we respond: stewarding our resources to where they are needed and wanted

* **Integrity and Excellence** We want to deliver high quality projects with transparency. This includes the food we provide (high quality and healthy), the way we recruit and treat our team (safeguarding and staff care), the way we treat our neighbours and colleagues (with dignity and respect) and the way we handle our finances; as we steward ALL aspects of what God has entrusted to us in a responsible way.

* **Advocacy and Empowering** We want to pay attention to the ideas, dreams and voices within our neighbourhood as well as speaking up for those who don't have a voice through advocacy, while also working to empower them to have one through campaigning and seeking change at a structural and governmental level.

* **Prayerful and Motivated by the Love of Christ** All our work is done in prayer because we believe God loves Smethwick and wants to see our neighbours and our community flourish.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

Smethwick Foodbank 2025

The demand on Smethwick Foodbank has remained steady over the past 12 months due to the Cost-of-Living crisis, rise in fuel prices and other factors affecting the local community. The demand has remained very consistent over the last twelve months, after the steep increase in April 2020, however, overall, 440 parcels have been given out on average each month during the last financial year, compared with an average of 483 parcels being given out each month in 2023/2024. As a comparison, 190 parcels per month were given out in 2019/20.

The main causes of crisis throughout the year have been the rising cost of essentials, the ongoing impact of a physical or mental health condition, and insecure housing, a change from previous years where having no recourse to public funds and benefit delays and benefits changes due to the re-evaluation of their eligibility for specific benefits, namely PIP and ESA, were common reasons for referral.

In the last twelve months there has been a shift in the household structure of people requiring Foodbank support: currently, 38% of people accessing the Foodbank are families (with 19% of these being single parent households), up from 36% last year; 62% are single; 3% are couples. The biggest increase has been in the number of homeless and insecurely housed people accessing our services as support for families has been a priority in Sandwell over the last few years which has consequently reduced the number of families that need emergency foodbank support, for example in the provision of food and vouchers for during school holidays for children who receive free school meals.

As in previous years, 60% of Foodbank users are from the four Smethwick wards, with residents of the remainder of Sandwell and of Birmingham each making up around 20% of users each month. To address the needs of clients accessing Foodbank and not seeking additional help for their monetary crisis, we have successfully implemented a variety of strategies to encourage clients to seek help from other organisations. We host a Signposting Hub with representatives from the Cost of Living Team (COLT), Citizen's Advice, Healthy Minds Sandwell, Action for Children and Sandwell Community Offer, NHS Stop Smoking Sandwell and other local and national organisations each Foodbank session. Advice and signposting leaflets are provided to each client and are updated monthly. There is also a telephone service for additional signposting. We have subsequently seen an increase in clients who would normally self-refer attending with vouchers and receiving benefits reviews, budgeting, and income maximisation advice etc. and needing less long-term support from us.

We have continued to operate a pre-packed only service and to provide a range of personal care and household cleaning items, fresh fruit, and vegetables, and fresh bread and bakery items donated by Warburtons. We also provide specific pre-packed parcels for homeless, vegetarian, and Halal Foodbank users and have these available each session. Smethwick Foodbank operates a 'donations day' each Wednesday where Holy Trinity Church is open for donations from the local community and corporate and business donors.

We have again increased the number of Referral Agencies, focusing on local services that are providing face-to-face provision, including all doctor's surgeries and schools within Smethwick, and a wide range of local charities, including refugee support charities and those offering debt and addiction support, and those supporting the elderly. It is vital to work in partnership with our referral agencies to ensure that the full spectrum of advice and support is offered to our neighbours in financial hardship.

Training has been a priority in the last twelve months, with volunteers and staff accessing an unprecedented level of training and support. We have trained staff and volunteers in Safeguarding, Manual Handling, Health and Safety and Allergen Training.

Going forwards, the focus is again on maintaining funding; working in partnership with Sandwell Council in their new food distribution hub for foodbanks and pantries; developing our strategic goals; developing the training and support we offer to all volunteers, regardless of needs; and in ensuring that clients continue to receive timely help and avoid long term Foodbank use where possible.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Your Local Pantry: Smethwick Food Pantry 2025

Your Local Pantry Smethwick is a member of the Your Local Pantry network and operates as a longer-term and sustainable option for addressing food poverty within the local area. It operates as a member-led neighbourhood hub that provides low-cost, quality food to its members, as well as being a springboard into other community initiatives and support services, for a cost of just £6 per week. The Pantry has been able to help members save an average of £33.96 per week on their grocery bill, plus free fresh fruit and vegetables and personal hygiene products which are provided in addition to their main shopping.

Over the past twelve months, members have struggled with the cost-of-living crisis and the rising cost of energy bills. Members have continued to report that they were not using their conventional gas cookers to make hot meals as they were worried about their utility bills; we continued to provide air fryers and slow cookers to new members and we again offered 'Don't Waste Food' cookery classes and demonstrations for Pantry members to share innovative and low cost ways of using fresh produce and typical items that could be purchased at the Pantry, along with healthy tinned produce.

Tenderstem Broccoli, who are a partner of Action Against Hunger, continue to support Your Local Pantry Smethwick which has enabled us to maintain the increased opening hours of the Pantry to Tuesday afternoon and all day Wednesday. Because of this, the waiting list has significantly come down from 120 to 13 and we have been able to accommodate direct referrals from the Foodbank and other partners.

We have built good working relationships with PRL@Sainsbury's where we have a local donation point. We provide a 'wish list' of scarce items and donors are generous in their response. Smethwick Pantry is working closely with a local independent Supermarket and now has a donation point in their premises which is collected weekly. These relationships help maintain the sustainability of the Pantry.

This year the pantry has been concentrating on providing members with healthy nutritious food and culture awareness food. This year we have added on our portal more members from ethnic minority backgrounds whose dietary needs are halal or kosher food. Also having staple foods like lentils for members from the south Indian community has been a real success.

Members quotes:

"I do not know when we had halal chicken food, my children were soooo happy that I cried!!"

"I cannot afford lentils, but your cooking tips and time saving ideas have really helped us, we would be lost without you."

"Thank you for your cooking recipe ideas for halal food, we really eat well now."

"If I didn't get any halal meat from you I would have resorted to eating non-halal as I was so desperate."

Towards the end of 2024, we partnered with St Mary's Church in Bearwood to set up a new Your Local Pantry to serve the community of Bearwood. The Pantry opened with 15 members in December 2024 and has since doubled its weekly member visits and has built a team of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers and supporters. The Pantry takes place at the same time on Mondays as the St Mary's drop in café 'The Watering Can' and also enables members to access support services such as The Cost-of-Living-Team (COLT) and Citizen's Advice, while they are picking up their Pantry shop.

Church Network

Meeting monthly for prayers, encouragement, having a moan(!) is becoming a habit again! Church Leaders are encouraged to look beyond their own responsibilities and begin to dream dreams for the future of our work together. New friendships and partnerships are being established, and it is from these new foundations that future ministry and ideas will flow for each of us as we learn from the Holy Spirit through one another. Crucially, we hear what others are doing or not doing and take advantage to learn afresh.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

As churches we have an opportunity to offer leadership in our local community in areas such as climate change, community cohesion, welcoming of newly arrived people and setting the tone and manner for that as we seek to live the gospel we try to live by. We do this not over against another but by celebrating difference and working to make the public space we inhabit a safe and creative space for all.

Our collective thank you goes to Hannah Girling, Trustee responsible for the Church Network, who is energising us all and making sure we are on time and in the right church every month! Thanks, Hannah, for the continued blessing you are to us all!

Public benefit

Smethwick Church Action Network (CAN) aims to serve our neighbours in times of crisis and help facilitate a transition from being a place of need, to one of opportunity, hope, and self-sufficiency. Smethwick CAN started out as a grassroots network of churches who gathered in 2011 with the aim of supporting those in the local community who were experiencing food poverty. From this, Smethwick Foodbank (part of the national Trussell Trust network) was launched. Sadly, our Foodbank is now busier than ever, with this trend only set to continue as the cost-of-living crisis and aftermath of the pandemic take their toll. In 2014 Smethwick CAN became a registered charity and since then the churches have launched numerous other projects. We currently run a Community Pantry in Smethwick Library as well as aiding local churches to expand and develop their community activities. The churches in the network host a variety of coffee mornings, children and youth activities, Places of Welcome and community lunches. We collaborate closely with numerous partner organisations and, with thanks to funding from SCVO, have expanded our information and signposting hubs at both Foodbank and Pantry, to include a wide range of advice and support partners. We would love to see a day when there is no need for Foodbanks and are actively looking at ways we can support our neighbours out of places of crisis and food poverty and into places where they can thrive.

Volunteers

We continue to work closely with the Birmingham Youth Offending Team (BYOT) offering our in-house training to Parolee volunteers completing their reparation orders. This training includes Manual Handling, Safeguarding, and occasionally Level 2 Food Hygiene. In addition, we have worked with BYOT to develop an accredited, very basic communication skills course that aligns with the existing training delivered by BYOT. This will further improve the chances for Parolees finding work in the future.

Allowing Parolees to volunteer with us has provided an opportunity to see the positive effect of working with us has on their outlook and behaviour. There is something about the welcome and support they receive here, along with the fact that they are helping others who are in a worse situation than they are themselves, that leads to real personal change in these young people. This has also been acknowledged and is valued by BYOT.

The Volunteer Co-ordinator has provided formal and informal support to all volunteers over the last year at both project venues. The informal support offers the chance to give positive feedback, identify any low-level concerns that can be addressed 'in the moment' and identify any learning needs.

More formal support has been offered where people have become stressed either due to their own life events or to stress related to their volunteering role. The use of the Reflection Tool introduced last year has proved effective in helping individuals to discuss their distress and identify what coping mechanisms work for them. The tool is now offered for personal use as part of the Basic Safeguarding training.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Volunteer Recruitment

As ever, over the last year we have lost some volunteers but gained others. We continue to attract potential new volunteers from the local community with a wide variety of skills and experience.

Stage of Recruitment	No.	Comments
Expressed an interest	68	All who rang or emailed expressing a wish to volunteer
Number we declined	11	All who were not eligible to become a volunteer at SCAN
Completed applications reviewed	39	All completed applications received
Number fully recruited	13	All who completed the full recruitment process
Number who volunteered	12	All who carried out at least 1 session as a volunteer.

Additional statistics

Percentage of all applicants who expressed an interest in volunteering who became volunteers - 17.6%

Percentage of applicants who expressed an interest in volunteering minus inappropriate applications - 21.0%

Reasons for declined applications:

1. Under 17yrs old
2. Being on the Sex Offenders Register & barred from working around children
3. Mental Health Condition causing inappropriate behaviour
4. Inappropriate application, asking for a health care placement
5. Proof of dishonesty
6. Inadequate references
7. Volunteer Co-ordinators lack of capacity to support, i.e. several applications at the same time from people with additional needs

Reasons for leaving in descending order:

1. Declined a DBS check
2. Inadequate references
3. To commence full time education
4. To start a new job
5. Moved to a new area

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Smethwick Foodbank

Over the 12-month period from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 we provided 5101 emergency food parcels (5796 in 2023-2024) providing over 45,909 meals for people in crisis. Through funding from Harborne Parish Lands Charity, the Eveson Trust, Turner Trust, the Alex Ferry Foundation, St Mary's Mission Giving Group, Trusthouse Charitable Foundation and The Trussell Trust, we were able to maintain our part-time staff team to include a Foodbank Co-ordinator (18), Warehouse Coordinator (12), Warehouse Assistant (5), and an Administrator (15), as well as shared staff with the Pantry and other projects of a Lead Project Manager, Financial Administrator and cross-project Warehouse Assistant.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

We continue to be supported by a fantastic team of dedicated volunteers, including some volunteers who have aided since the Foodbank opened in 2012. Despite the unanticipated cost of living crisis that has followed the Pandemic, and the ongoing need for our services, we were able to keep up with the demand, including fresh bread and other bakery items (donated by Warburtons), hygiene and personal care items (supported by Bloody Good Period and Beauty Bank). We have increased our volunteer team and our signposting and support services to those in financial crisis. We worked with over 100 partner referral agencies and continue to work with partners such as Citizen's Advice, Brushstrokes, Help Through Hardship, Local Welfare Provision and The Community Offer to provide support to people experiencing a range of issues including redundancy, unemployment, benefit delays, domestic violence, and addiction.

Your Local Pantry: Smethwick

The Pantry continues to provide support with new members signing up weekly; we have extended our opening times by opening an additional afternoon each week and have increased membership, with plans to increase this further. We have worked in partnership with Smethwick Library to create an information and signposting hub during Pantry's opening hours. This has included Citizen's Advice, mental health support and local children's centre services.

As a charity, two of our core values are to be inclusive and accepting, and therefore we are passionate about ensuring not only the quality and standards of the food we provide, but to offer a ray of hope to those who are in financial crisis.

Case Study: A pantry member with 9 children who has lost income due to a change in her eligibility for certain benefits was having to borrow money to pay her £6 pantry membership fee. As well as providing a referral to Citizen's Advice, we were able to provide free nappies, sanitary products and baby food to the member to help reduce the burden on her income.

Church Network

The churches that had funding to develop their kitchen spaces last year have now been able to reopen previous community initiatives as well as start new ones, for example, a 'chatty cafe' to support those learning English; a community youth group that involves the young people cooking and eating together; stay and play sessions that include family cooking time; Places of Welcome and coffee mornings. A Renew Wellbeing Café at one of the churches in our network has now been open for over a year and is successfully welcoming members of the local community in need of support and friendship.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025 shows incoming resources totalling £150,081 (2024: £187,980) and resources expended totalling £169,888 (2024: £190,388), generating net outgoing resources of £19,807 (2024: net outgoing resources of £2,408).

The charity's balance sheet is recording total net assets of £79,598 as at 31 March 2025 (2024: £99,405).

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

FUTURE PLANS

Like all organisations, the Pandemic and the ongoing cost of living crisis has continued to have a major impact on our services, with demand continuing to be at all-time high. This is a trend that unfortunately is likely to continue. As we look to the future, our aim is to continue to focus on supporting people to move from crisis to self-sufficiency, whilst also being realistic about our own limitations and a desire to do all things well. Although much has been achieved in this area over the past 12 months, going into the new financial year we are planning to focus on:

- Continuing to develop a sustainable funding strategy, not only with grant applications but deepening our relationships with local organisations, for example surplus food donations, corporate support (including our partnership with Action Against Hunger) and exploring how we can share resources with other local charities and partners, including being a lead organisation in the Sandwell-wide distribution hub for Foodbanks and Pantries which opens later this year.

- As a grassroots organisation, the relationship between the charity and associated churches has been one that has grown and developed organically over the course of the charity's existence. As a result of the work that began in March 2022 to consider the question of "What makes a church a Smethwick CAN Church?", a more formalised membership statement that churches can sign up to has been created, with the focus being on partnership work and on proactively seeking opportunities to collaborate. This collaborative work culminated in a celebratory event in October 2023. The church leaders' gathering will remain open to all church leaders, whether members or not.

- Further increase the opening hours for Pantry to be able to increase the number of members that we can welcome on weekly basis, with a particular focus on direct referrals from the Foodbank.

- Energy advice services will begin attending Pantry sessions in the summer of 2024.

- Focus on increasing the cultural diversity of food on offer at the Pantry to ensure that it reflects the multi-cultural needs and backgrounds of our members.

- Continued development and integration of signposting and information hubs at both Foodbank and Pantry, including further exploration of advocacy services and how we can better support people to advocate for themselves in times of crisis.

- Formation of a steering group for both Pantry and Foodbank, comprising of trustees, staff, volunteers, donors, and service users to ensure those with lived experience remain at the heart of all we do, and their voices are heard at all levels of decision making.

- We are continuing to explore longer term bids for both core and additional costs, and also more sustainable mixed models of fundraising.

- To further develop the impact and scope of our dedicated Volunteer Coordinator to ensure volunteers of all needs and abilities are well supported and their voices are heard at all operational and strategic levels. In 2024-25 there will be a focus on recruiting and supporting volunteers with additional needs, both at Foodbank and Pantry, as well as at projects within the church network.

- In addition, we are looking at developing our volunteering offer through seeking accreditation for all volunteer training, sourcing new avenues from which to recruit new volunteers and further developing collaboration working with Youth Offending Services to provide a wider variety of placements for young people (e.g. at the Community Orchard). Alongside this development we are hoping to begin the process towards Investing in Volunteers Quality Standards accreditation, however this is dependent on securing funding.?

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK (REGISTERED NUMBER: CE002343)

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
CE002343 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1157993

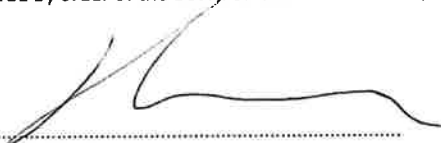
Registered office
Holy Trinity Community Office
Church Hill Street
Smethwick
West Midlands
B67 7AH

Trustees
D R Gould
N M Ross
W Dyke
K J Peniket
J R Crewes (resigned 31.3.25)
J Cannings
S J Bentham
H Girling
G D Brown

Company Secretary
W Dyke

Independent Examiner
J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

Approved by order of the board of trustees on24/10/2025..... and signed on its behalf by:


.....
~~D R Gould~~ - Trustee
N M Ross

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Smethwick Church Action Network ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



James Cruse FCA, FCCA

J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

Date: 24/10/2025

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and grants		34,924	101,547	136,471	176,507
Other trading activities	2	<u>13,610</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,610</u>	<u>11,473</u>
Total		<u>48,534</u>	<u>101,547</u>	<u>150,081</u>	<u>187,980</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charitable activities		63,112	93,318	156,430	171,128
Support costs		9,108	786	9,894	16,464
Governance costs		<u>3,537</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>3,564</u>	<u>2,796</u>
Total		<u>75,757</u>	<u>94,131</u>	<u>169,888</u>	<u>190,388</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(27,223)	7,416	(19,807)	(2,408)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>70,175</u>	<u>29,230</u>	<u>99,405</u>	<u>101,813</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>42,952</u></u>	<u><u>36,646</u></u>	<u><u>79,598</u></u>	<u><u>99,405</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK (REGISTERED NUMBER: CE002343)

**BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	3,053	-	3,053	5,014
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	-	-	-	79
Cash at bank and in hand		44,211	36,643	80,854	99,790
		44,211	36,643	80,854	99,869
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	(4,309)	-	(4,309)	(5,478)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		39,902	36,643	76,545	94,391
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		42,955	36,643	79,598	99,405
NET ASSETS		42,955	36,643	79,598	99,405
FUNDS	9				
Unrestricted funds				42,955	70,175
Restricted funds				36,643	29,230
TOTAL FUNDS				79,598	99,405

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

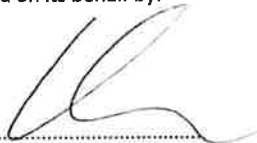
The notes form part of these financial statements

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK (REGISTERED NUMBER: CE002343)

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2025

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 24/10/2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



D.R. Gould - Trustee

Read Nick Rose : Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

INCOME

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

EXPENDITURE

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 20% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- at varying rates on cost
Computer equipment	- 25% on cost

TAXATION

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

PENSION COSTS AND OTHER POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Shop income	<u>13,610</u>	<u>11,473</u>

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent examiners fees	2,340	1,800
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>2,365</u>	<u>2,291</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

5. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
Employees		

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 April 2024	1,518	6,256	3,117	10,891
Additions	-	-	404	404
At 31 March 2025	1,518	6,256	3,521	11,295
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2024	755	3,556	1,566	5,877
Charge for year	303	1,251	811	2,365
At 31 March 2025	1,058	4,807	2,377	8,242
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2025	460	1,449	1,144	3,053
At 31 March 2024	763	2,700	1,551	5,014

7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Other debtors	-	79

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Social security and other taxes	289	283
Other creditors	170	173
Credit card	1,510	3,222
Accrued expenses	2,340	1,800
	4,309	5,478

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	60,632	(27,220)	33,412
Pantry Membership	<u>9,543</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,543</u>
	70,175	(27,220)	42,955
Restricted funds			
Trussell Trust	2,250	(2,250)	-
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	6,404	(5,056)	1,348
Harborne Parish Lands	-	656	656
Sandwell MBC Pantry	3,863	675	4,538
Trussell Trust (Winter Support Grant)	2,443	(2,443)	-
Alex Ferry Foundation	2,037	(2,037)	-
National Grid Community Matters Fund	192	(192)	-
TFL Community Fund	41	(41)	-
Turner Trust	2,000	(2,000)	-
The Eveson Trust	10,000	(10,000)	-
Metal Closures	-	1,544	1,544
National Lottery	-	10,000	10,000
SCVo St Marys	-	1,076	1,076
St Marys	-	1,701	1,701
Trust House	-	7,358	7,358
TT Sustainability Grant	<u>-</u>	<u>8,422</u>	<u>8,422</u>
	29,230	7,413	36,643
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>99,405</u>	<u>(19,807)</u>	<u>79,598</u>

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	48,534	(75,754)	(27,220)
Restricted funds			
Trussell Trust	-	(2,250)	(2,250)
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	20,250	(25,306)	(5,056)
Harborne Parish Lands	17,077	(16,421)	656
Sandwell MBC Pantry	5,501	(4,826)	675
Tesco Groundworks	363	(363)	-
Trussell Trust (Winter Support Grant)	-	(2,443)	(2,443)
Tenderstem Broccoli	5,834	(5,834)	-
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	(2,037)	(2,037)
National Grid Community Matters Fund	-	(192)	(192)
TFL Community Fund	-	(41)	(41)
Turner Trust	-	(2,000)	(2,000)
Dulverton Trust Fund	4,928	(4,928)	-
Warburtons Community Fund	400	(400)	-
The Eveson Trust	-	(10,000)	(10,000)
Metal Closures	1,630	(86)	1,544
National Lottery	10,000	-	10,000
SCVo St Marys	1,600	(524)	1,076
St Marys	2,559	(858)	1,701
Trust House	9,680	(2,322)	7,358
TT Sustainability Grant	20,425	(12,003)	8,422
Woodward	1,000	(1,000)	-
WVCA	300	(300)	-
	<u>101,547</u>	<u>(94,134)</u>	<u>7,413</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>150,081</u>	<u>(169,888)</u>	<u>(19,807)</u>

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	41,158	19,474	60,632
Pantry Membership	<u>13,122</u>	<u>(3,579)</u>	<u>9,543</u>
	54,280	15,895	70,175
Restricted funds			
Trussell Trust (Strategic Facilities Grant)	2,250	-	2,250
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	7,506	(1,102)	6,404
Awards 4 All	1,948	(1,948)	-
EPIC fund 2	13,903	(13,903)	-
Harborne Parish Lands	3,405	(3,405)	-
Julia & Hans Rausing Trust	6,393	(6,393)	-
Sandwell MBC Pantry	239	3,624	3,863
Tesco Groundworks	1,540	(1,540)	-
Trussell Trust (Winter Support Grant)	10,349	(7,906)	2,443
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	2,037	2,037
National Grid Community Matters Fund	-	192	192
TFL Community Fund	-	41	41
Turner Trust	-	2,000	2,000
The Eveson Trust	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	<u>47,533</u>	<u>(18,303)</u>	<u>29,230</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>101,813</u>	<u>(2,408)</u>	<u>99,405</u>

SMETHWICK CHURCH ACTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	42,392	(22,918)	19,474
Pantry Membership	<u>11,472</u>	<u>(15,051)</u>	<u>(3,579)</u>
	53,864	(37,969)	15,895
Restricted funds			
Trussell Trust (Strategic Facilities Grant)	9,000	(9,000)	-
Local Giving Magic Grants	500	(500)	-
Sandwell MBC Foodbank	47,500	(48,602)	(1,102)
Awards 4 All	-	(1,948)	(1,948)
EPIC fund 2	-	(13,903)	(13,903)
Harborne Parish Lands	21,423	(24,828)	(3,405)
Julia & Hans Rausing Trust	-	(6,393)	(6,393)
Sandwell MBC Pantry	7,960	(4,336)	3,624
Tesco Groundworks	3,452	(4,992)	(1,540)
Trussell Trust (Winter Support Grant)	-	(7,906)	(7,906)
Tenderstem Broccoli	5,000	(5,000)	-
Alex Ferry Foundation	2,500	(463)	2,037
National Grid Community Matters Fund	6,497	(6,305)	192
TFL Community Fund	9,948	(9,907)	41
Turner Trust	2,000	-	2,000
Dulverton Trust Fund	4,436	(4,436)	-
The Harry Payne Fund	1,500	(1,500)	-
Heart of England Community Foundation	2,000	(2,000)	-
Warburtons Community Fund	400	(400)	-
The Eveson Trust	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	<u>134,116</u>	<u>(152,419)</u>	<u>(18,303)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>187,980</u>	<u>(190,388)</u>	<u>(2,408)</u>

Unrestricted - General Funds

This fund represents the free funds of the charity that are not designated for any particular purpose.

Designated - Pantry Membership Funds

This fund contains traded income from money paid weekly by Pantry members, and occasional donations to Your Local Pantry Smethwick.

Restricted - Alex Ferry

This is a grant from the Alex Ferry foundation for Lead Project Manager salary costs from April to September 2024, and for rucksacks of equipment and clothing for homeless Foodbank clients.

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Restricted - Dulverton

This is a grant from the Heart of England Birmingham and Black Country Communities Fund in conjunction with the Dulverton Trust for Pantry food costs.

Restricted - Eveson

This is a grant from the Eveson Trust towards staff costs from April 2024 to March 2025.

Restricted - Harborne Parish Lands Charity

This is a grant towards Foodbank staff costs from July 2024 to June 2025.

Restricted - Metal Closures Limited

This is a grant from Metal Closures Limited Staff Welfare Fund for food hygiene training and laptops.

Restricted - National Grid

This is a grant from National Grid Community Matters Fund for foodbank staff costs, warm home packs for foodbank clients, and additional heating costs.

Restricted - National Lottery

This is a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund for Foodbank Coordinator and Foodbank Administrator salary costs April to September 2025.

Restricted - SCVO via St Marys

This is a grant from Sandwell Council for Voluntary Organisations for Foodbank Manager and Finance Administrator salary costs, in respect of assistance given in the setup and management of Bearwood Pantry.

Restricted - Sandwell MBC (Foodbank)

This is ongoing funding from Sandwell MBC specifically designated for food costs and carrier bags for use within our Foodbank project.

Restricted - Sandwell MBC (Pantry)

This is a grant from the Household Support Fund for food for members of Your Local Pantry Smethwick.

Restricted - St Mary's Mission Giving Group

This is a grant from St Mary's Church Bearwood, for Foodbank Coordinator salary costs from December 2024 to November 2025.

Restricted - Tenderstem Broccoli

This is a grant from Action against Hunger in conjunction with Tenderstem Broccoli to support Your Local Pantry Smethwick with staffing costs, winter warmer hampers, and additional culturally appropriate foods (eg: halal food, vegetarian food).

Restricted - Tesco Groundworks

These are ongoing small grants from Tesco for the provision of fresh fruit and vegetables for Foodbank users.

Restricted - TFL Community Fund

This was a grant for Foodbank staff costs from January to March 2024.

Restricted - Trusthouse

This is a grant from Trusthouse Charitable Foundation for rent costs and Volunteer Coordinator salary costs from January to December 2025.

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Restricted - TT Sustainability Grant

This is a Trussell Trust grant of £20,000 for Foodbank food costs.

Restricted - TT Strategic Facilities Grant

This funding is a Trussell Trust grant towards the cost of rent costs from July 2021 to June 2025, and foodbank shelving.

Restricted - TT Winter Support Grant

This is a Trussell Trust grant designated to additional staffing costs, food costs, and slow cookers for foodbank clients. An underspend was allocated to rental costs.

Restricted - Turner Trust

This is a grant towards core costs, which has been internally allocated to Warehouse Administrator salary costs from April to June 2024.

Restricted - Warburtons

This is a small grant from Warburtons for Foodbank Coordinator salary costs from January to February 2025.

Restricted - Wolverhampton Voluntary & Community Action

This is a payment from WVCA for Volunteer Coordinator salary costs, in respect to NHS Integrated Care Board research carried out in June-July 2024.

Restricted - Woodward

This is a grant from Woodward Charitable Trust for rental costs.

Designated Corporate Donations

These are corporate donations for our general funds, which have been internally designated to cover particular funding needs:

Richardson Brothers - £3,000 - designated to Foodbank Administrator salary costs from April to July 2024.

Enfinium - £6,000 - designated to Lead Project Manager salary costs from April to September 2024.

ASDA Foundation - £1,000 - designated to Foodbank food costs from October to December 2024.

Richardson Brothers - £3,000 - designated to Foodbank Administrator salary costs from December 2024 to March 2025.

Cole Charitable Trust - £1,500 - designated to Volunteer Coordinator salary costs from January to June 2025.

10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025.